

Community Bulletin

Kelly Air Force Base Conversion Agency

August 28, 2001

DRILLING IN QUINTANA ROAD AREA

The Air Force Base Conversion Agency (AFBCA) will begin drilling boreholes and installing groundwater monitoring wells this week along Prospect, Fenfield and McLaughlin streets off Quintana Road. The drilling will cause temporary street closures because the streets are too narrow to allow traffic through during drilling. The AFBCA contractor will drill holes at approximately 20 locations to sample soils and install wells, mainly on city-owned property such as streets and sidewalks. Work will take approximately 10 days and will begin September 4. All work will be done during normal business hours and will use all necessary safety procedures.

The AFBCA will use the information from the soil sampling and wells to help design the final phase of the Quintana Road groundwater system. This system will

be designed to capture and prevent further migration of contaminated groundwater.

This drilling is associated with Site S-4, located along the eastern boundary of the former Kelly AFB. Groundwater contamination at Site S-4 was generated by industrial operations and aircraft maintenance at the center of the former base.

In June 1988, City of San Antonio workers found JP-4 jet fuel in the shallow groundwater during construction of the drainage system that runs east along McLaughlin to Bynum Avenue, then north on Bynum to Quintana Road.

The Air Force cleaned up the discharged fuel in accordance with applicable environmental regulations, but discovered contaminated shallow groundwater east of the base containing industrial cleaners known as solvents.

The Air Force then initiated a long-term effort to identify the extent of the solvent contamination. An interim cleanup system was built with 24 recovery wells and a standpipe in a covered groundwater recovery trench. The interim system was intended to contain shallow groundwater at the base boundary.

Since November 1999, all of these wells, with the exception of the trench, have been shut down and new wells have been installed. The current system consists of five on-base recovery wells, two 500 foot covered on-base trenches and one 300 foot covered trench located on Union Pacific property.

Questions?

AFBCA is dedicated to involving the community in the cleanup program for the former Kelly AFB. For more information on this project, please call the AFBCA Public Information Line at 210-925-0956.